



University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association
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March 12, 2018

Re: C2017-1249 Secondary Suite Process Reform

Dear Councillors:

We are writing today with support for the recommendations put forward by administration to amend Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 and move forward on permitting safe secondary suites as a discretionary use in the R-1, R-C1, and R-C1L districts.

Graduate students are at the forefront of research that can improve the way we live, work, and play in this city. Research being done by graduate students at the University of Calgary has wide-reaching potential for our city, from improving traffic on Deerfoot to improving the lives of seniors through aging in place innovations. The over 7,000 graduate students who attend the University of Calgary are the leaders of tomorrow because they are the innovators of today.

Graduate students are also important members of their communities. Many of them have started families. Over one-third of our membership come to the University of Calgary from abroad. They are the diverse, thoughtful, and caring individuals that help make Calgary the wonderful place that it is.

None of this city-shaping research and community spirit is possible without a safe, affordable place to live. At the Graduate Students' Association we have seen first-hand the struggles that students face to find safe, reliable, and affordable housing.

The current process for approving suites is a huge barrier to providing the housing that many in our city need. As governors ourselves we recognize the huge amount of councillor time wasted approving suites individually in council meetings. When a process is broken, you fix it with policy. We are encouraged to see the City take the right steps on this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Willem Klumpenhouwer
Vice President External

Brit Paris
President

